

Information secured during the week beginning January 15, 1923.

I proceeded to New Brunswick, N.J., and interviewed Mr. Sipel with reference to the letter he wrote to Mrs. Hall, asking that he be compensated for the time he lost while he was called as a witness before the Grand Jury.

Mr. Sipel thought his testimony was instrumental in causing the Grand Jury not to indict Mrs. Hall, and that the least she could do was to compensate him for his trouble - He said that he had to place a man to take charge of his cattle, and that two of the cattle went bad on him, causing him a loss of about \$150.00 He said no doubt Mrs. Hall could show her appreciation if she so desired.

I informed Mr. Sipel that Mrs. Hall did appreciate that he had the moral courage to go before the Grand Jury and give testimony, but on the other hand, Mr. Pfeiffer did not think it was advisable for Mrs. Hall to reimburse any witnesses, for the reason that a misconception would be had, and no doubt it might create a rumor that Mrs. Hall was using her money for the purpose of buying up witnesses.

To the above, Mr. Sipel stated that he has been getting three square meals a day and if she cares to make him a present, all well and good, if not, he will get along the same as he used to. He said that there was a rumor that Mrs. Hall had paid Mr. Beckman, \$20,000. - Also that he had been bribed in giving the testimony that he did before the Grand Jury - Also that he is much surprised that the District Attorney of Somerset County did not indict Mrs. Gibson. He said if you check up the story she told Mrs. Barry and the story she told Dr. Cooper you will find discrepancies. To Mrs. Barry, Mrs. Gibson said her reasons for returning to DeBussey's Lane was that when she went home, after hearing the cries, she (Gibson) said, "Maybe it is some poor girl that is being attacked, I will go back and help her," and upon arriving there she

saw Mrs. Hall. To Dr. Cooper, Mrs. Gibson said that the reason for her going back was that she had lost her nosepin. Mr. Appel said that the Officials of Somerset County knew a lot about Mrs. Gibson, and that if we checked up we will find that about six or seven days after the bodies were found, there was a notice posted in Somerville that Mrs. Gibson's property was going to be sold on a foreclosure or a non-payment of taxes - Also that Dr. Cooper aided Mrs. Gibson when he gave testimony before the Somerville Grand Jury in her behalf, discrediting a Mrs. Kossack's story before that body. The testimony he gave was with regards to the nature of Mrs. Kossack's injuries which she claims to have received from Mrs. Gibson at the time she accused Mrs. Gibson of assaulting her. Mr. Sipel wanted to know if Mrs. Gibson's place had been searched. His theory is that Mrs. Gibson did not do this for money, it is possible that she might have been implicated herself.

I also interviewed Jim Mills and Charlotte Mills. While speaking to them, a reporter of the "International News," by the name of Spivik came in. Spivik asked Jim Mills to accompany him to Sulzer's inauguration on the following day for the purpose of urging Sulzer to take action in this investigation. Spivik said that "The only way to do is to get after these politicians or they do not do anything for you, and if you go along with me I will get you an interview with the Governor. At first Mr. Mills refused saying that he had no time, that he had already written Governor Edwards, and Senator Edge. But Spivik insisted that he go. Mills then found fault that he did not have the time; but Spivik farther insisted. Finally Spivik and Mills left; Mills going over to the school seeing if he could get permission from his superior, so that he might go to Trenton, on the following day. Before going Mills suggested that the Corvline clue might be a good one, and as for Mrs. Hall he does not think she committed the crime, but doubt she knows something about

it through information given her by some of the members of the church - This is only Mr. Mills's opinion.

Charlotte Mills also said that Coroline would bear an investigation. That she had no use for Mr. Hall, that she is sure that Mr. Hall would save his notes, for the reason that her mother told her that Mr. Hall would keep these notes in a box. Both Mr. Mills and Charlotte said that there was some very prominent detective working on the case, and that they thought he might help to find out who committed this crime. Mr. Mills also said that this detective showed him a typewritten copy of the letters found at the bodies.

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, 1923, I proceeded to Paterson, N.J., and made three trips to the Bernhardt house.

Mr. Bernhardt thinks that there is a possibility of Mills having committed the crime, and also figures that there is a possibility of Coroline knowing more than he has told. Mrs. Bernhardt approves of the Coroline theory but does not think so much of the Mills theory, but she seems to be prejudiced against Mrs. Hall. I did not gather much new information from them, only that Mrs. Bernhardt suspected that I was working in league with the newspapers for the reason that the day after my visit to her house, Mrs. Hampton, a reporter of the "City News," seemed to have all the information which I had discussed with the Bernhardts. She said that Charlotte was there, and that Charlotte did not want to see Mrs. Hampton. Mr. Bernhardt also showed me a letter which he was about to send or had sent to Charlotte, criticizing her on an expense account - He also told me that he is still keeping some of the money which he secured for Charlotte in the sale of the letters which were entrusted to him, and that he contemplates giving the balance of this money to Mr. Mills. He also is willing to face Jim Mills with regard to the information where Jim Mills said, "I am not sick, I am worrying, I don't sleep nights, and

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"I feel like blowing my brains out." Mr. Bernhardt also read a letter which Charlotte wrote to them, wherein it stated that she was to see Mr. Parker.

There was much said, but I do not think it is of any importance.